(c) whether the Government intend to import the sugar for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of country from where sugar is likely to be imported ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the festival months of the season, a higher quota of freesale sugar is released as compared to other months of the season. Further, the Government have doubled the annual festival quota allotted out of levy sugar to all the States and Union Territories of the country for the calender year, 1996.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Movement of Foodgrains

5425. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release inter-state movement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to abolish octrol to facilitate the movement of foodgrains and compensate the losses suffered by the States;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the policy of the Central Government, the entire country is treated as single food zone for movement of foodgrains. Accordingly, the State Governments/U.T. Administrations have been advised to remove restrictions, if any, on inter- and intra-state movement of foodgrains.

(c) to (e) The system of levy and collection of octroi was reviewed by a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of West Bengal. The Committee has opined that octroi cannot be abolished as it is protected by Entry 52 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Per Capita Food Consumption

5426. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that food insecurity is building up in the country with per capita food consumption declining from 510 grams per day in 1991 to just 466 grams per day in 1993 and 63% rise in food prices between 1989-90 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the per capita per day food consumption in India in 1994-95, 1995-96 and the likely availability in the current year; and

(c) the steps are being taken to augment per capita food availability ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Foodgrain production in the country has made spectacular strides over the years; having recorded a sharp rise from 171.04 million tonnes in 1989-90 to 191.10 million tonnes in 1994-95. The per capita availability of foodgrains is provisionally estimated to have recorded a fall from 510 grams per day in 1991 to 464 grams per day in 1993. It is further estimated to have gone upto 471 and 506 grams per day in 1994 and 1995 respectively. The food security should not be seen in terms of per capita availability of foodgrains alone, as per capita availability of the other food items like fruits, vegetables, edible oils, milk, eggs, fish etc. is increasing.

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices of Foodgrains has moved up by 57.4% between the period 1989-90 to 1993-94.

(c) Various steps are being taken to increase the food production/availability in the country. Ongoing crop production oriented programmes on rice, wheat and coarse cereals have been modified and are being implemented to augment production of foodgrains.

Employees Provident Fund

5427. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Rules, 1952 which were extended to all the educational institutions in the Union Territory, Chandigarh, in 1982 have not been extended and enforced in Government aided schools there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the benefits which are available to the employees in Government aided schools in Chandigarh, under T.V. Scheme are less favourable than the benefits under the EPS; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to remove the lacunae?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The Employees Provident